

CLAIMS:

1. A method of validating articles of currency, in which, prior to issuing a signal indicative of whether the article is valid, the measured properties of an article are checked against a plurality of sets of criteria, each set corresponding to a predetermined type of article, the method comprising:
- issuing the signal indicative of whether the article is valid; and
- subsequently determining whether the measured properties meet at least one further set of criteria.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1, including altering the combination of sets which are checked prior to issuing the signal.
3. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein altering the combination is performed in response to determining that the measured properties meet a further one of the sets of criteria, and wherein the act of altering results in that further set of criteria being checked, in a subsequent validation operation, prior to issuing the signal.
4. A method as claimed in claim 3 wherein the act of altering results in that further set of criteria being checked in a next validation operation prior to issuing the signal.
5. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the act of altering includes altering the combination in a manner determined by which sets of criteria have been met in a plurality of previous validation operations.

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ah a sequence of determinations as to whether the article is of one of said types, the method comprising:

altering the sequence for a subsequent validation operation.

Sub 13. A method as claimed in claim 12, including issuing a signal indicating that the article is not genuine after a plurality of determinations and depending on the results of those determinations, and prior to further determinations being made.

10 Sub 14. A method of validating articles of currency, in which the measured properties of an article are checked against a plurality of sets of criteria, each set corresponding to a predetermined type of article, during a validation period prior to issuing a signal indicating 15 whether the article is an article of the predetermined type, the method comprising:

automatically preventing a single one of the sets from being considered during a validation period of a subsequent validation operation.

20 15. A method of validating articles of currency, in which the measured properties of an article are checked against a plurality of sets of criteria, each set corresponding to a predetermined type of article, during a validation period prior to issuing a signal indicating 25 whether the article is an article of the predetermined type, the method comprising:

30 automatically causing a single different set of criteria, associated with a different type of article, to be considered during a validation period of a subsequent validation operation.

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16. Apparatus for validating articles of currency comprising:

memory for storing data defining a plurality of sets of criteria, each set corresponding to a predetermined type of article; and

a processor operable to compare measured properties of an article with the criteria, and further operable to permit the criteria to be rendered effective or ineffective and to increment a credit count if the article is of the predetermined type for which the criteria are effective,

wherein the apparatus is capable of responding to recognition of a single article of one of the predetermined types by automatically preventing one of the sets from being effective during a subsequent validation operation.

17. Apparatus for validating articles of currency comprising:

memory for storing data defining a plurality of sets of criteria, each set corresponding to a predetermined type of article; and

a processor operable to compare measured properties of an article with the criteria, and further operable to permit the criteria to be rendered effective or ineffective and to increment a credit count if the article is of the predetermined type for which the criteria are effective,

wherein the apparatus is capable of responding to recognition of a single article of one of the predetermined types by automatically enabling a set of criteria, to be effective during a subsequent validation operation.

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